

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1978 - SB 2275

February 11, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits an executive agency, its employees, or authorized representatives or liaisons from using appropriated funds or funds under its control or engaging in any activity in an attempt to influence legislative or administrative action. Authorizes an agency or agency employee to provide information pursuant to a request or communicate with others as employees of state government in pursuit of federal appropriations or in support for federal programs.

Authorizes the Tennessee Ethics Commission (TEC) to assess a civil penalty of up to a maximum of \$3,000 against an executive agency, an employee of an agency, or both for a violation of the prohibition on lobbying.

Authorizes the Government Operations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate to review a potential violation of lobbying restrictions and to make a recommendation to the General Assembly to suspend an agency's rulemaking authority.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- There is not estimated to be a significant increase in civil penalties filed on behalf of the TEC; therefore, no significant increase in revenue or expenditures.
- It is assumed that any agency hearing would take place during regularly scheduled meetings of the Government Operations Committees and would not require any additional costs.
- It is assumed that the proposed legislation will not result in any staffing reductions. Any state government entity currently with a contract for lobbying services could realize savings resulting from the termination of such contract. It is assumed any savings will be reallocated and will not result in a significant decrease in overall expenditures.
- Any fiscal impact to state or local government is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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